



VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON

November 9, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I understand that Canadian National Railway Company plans to buy the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company. I have been informed that, as a result of this transaction, at least 15 new freight trains will travel through the Barrington, Illinois area each day. According to some, the increase will be much larger than that, and the final number is completely unpredictable. Such an increase will require a great deal of examination to assure that the traffic flow and safety concerns of my Department are met.

I am the Chief of Police for the Village of Barrington which also provides police for the Village of Inverness with a total population of over 17,000. My force has 32 officers serving this population as well as the Village of Inverness southeast of Barrington. I have been in this position for over ten years.

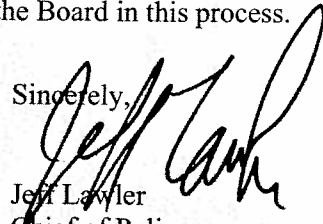
Because of the geographical location of the EJ&E line, the area my Department protects will become bifurcated. This makes it inevitable that there will be delays in responding to any emergency 911 calls due to blocked railroad crossings that are at grade level throughout the region.

Additionally, traffic flow is a major concern of mine as the EJ&E crosses our area's three major arterial roadways and a busy commuter rail line. We expect that traffic gridlock will become a routine and daily problem given the enormous increased volume of freight traffic on the line. Unfortunately, I have seen all too often what can occur in terms of human nature when people become impatient at being delayed at a rail crossing. They take risks to beat trains with unfortunate consequences to their own and others' safety.

Finally, we would expect that people will begin to use alternative ways to circumvent freight-induced gridlock by traveling through residential areas that are not equipped to handle commuter traffic. I am concerned about how this could endanger the children who live and play freely in these neighborhoods.

From my experience as Chief of Police, I understand that the federal government must consider all significant environmental impacts of its decisions, and issue a statement with alternatives and conditions before proceeding. I am certain that an extra 15 trains, each taking somewhere around five minutes to pass through the area, constitutes a significant impact on this region. I assume, therefore, that you will issue such a statement, which will give me and others an opportunity to review the true environmental impacts of this transaction. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Board in this process. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jeff Lawler
Chief of Police
Village of Barrington

VILLAGE HALL
200 S. ROUGH ST.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010
(847) 304-3400

**PRESIDENT & BOARD
MANAGER'S OFFICE**
TEL (847) 304-3444
FAX (847) 304-3490

FINANCIAL SERVICES
TEL (847) 304-3300
FAX (847) 381-7505

BUILDING & PLANNING
TEL (847) 304-3350
FAX (847) 381-1055

PUBLIC WORKS
300 N. RAYMOND AVE.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010
TEL (847) 381-7900
FAX (847) 382-3030

PUBLIC SAFETY
400 N. NORTHWEST HWY.
BARRINGTON, IL 60010

POLICE
TEL (847) 304-3300
FAX (847) 381-2163

FIRE
TEL (847) 304-3600
FAX (847) 381-1889